NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Office of Archives and History Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District

Kinston vicinity, Lenoir County, LR1189, Listed 9/3/2009 Nomination by M. Ruth Little Photographs by M. Ruth Little, September 2008



Overall view of orphanage and farmland



Cedar Dell Plantation House



Pollock Cottage



NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90) OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

. Name of property
nistoric name _Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District
other names/site number <u>Cedar Dell</u>
2. Location_
street & number <u>2557 Cedar Dell Lane</u> not for publication <u>N/A</u>
city or town <u>Kinston</u> vicinity <u>X</u> state <u>North Carolina</u> code <u>NC</u> county <u>Lenoir</u> code <u>107</u> zip code <u>28504</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide _X_ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
I. National Park Service Certification
hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
other (explain):

<u>Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District</u> Name of Property

Lenoir County, N.C. County and State

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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

<u>Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District</u> Name of Property

Lenoir County, N.C. County and State

8. Statement of Significance					
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)				
for National Register listing)	Social History				
X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	_Agriculture				
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.					
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance1914-1959				
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates _N/A				
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)					
_X A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A				
B removed from its original location.					
C a birthplace or a grave.	Cultural Affiliation _N/A				
D a cemetery.					
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.					
F a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder				
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	_Adams, Jack, architect				
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)					
9. Major Bibliographical References					
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one of	or more continuation sheets.)				
Previous documentation on file (NPS) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #					
Primary Location of Additional Data _X_ State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:	-				

Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District

Name of Property

Lenoir County, N.C.

County and State

1	0.	G	ec	a	ra	a	hi	cal	Data

Acreage of Property __1,240 acres___

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing 1 <u>18</u> <u>255900</u> <u>3905060</u> 2 18 _255150 _3905130 Zone Easting Northing 3 18 256360 3904450 4 18 257570 3901720 X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By	
name/titleM. Ruth Little	
organization Longleaf Historic Resources	date <u>May 2009</u>
street & number 2312 Bedford Avenue	telephone <u>919.412.7804</u>
city or townRaleigh	state_ <u>N.C.</u> _ zip code _ <u>27612</u>
12. Additional Documentation	

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
nameBaptist Children's Homes of North Carolina	<u>a</u>
street & number_2557 Cedar Dell Lane	telephone_ <u>252-522-0811</u>
city or town Kinston	_ state_NC_ zip code _28504

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>6</u> and 7 Page <u>1</u> Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District Lenoir County, N. C.

6. Historic Functions continued

Agriculture/Subsistence Storage

Agriculture/Subsistence Horticultural facility

Funerary Cemetery
Industry Waterworks
Landscape Garden
Landscape Forest

Landscape Natural Feature

Religion Church-related residence

Current Functions continued

Agriculture/Subsistence Storage

Agriculture/Subsistence Horticultural facility

Funerary Cemetery
Industry Waterworks
Landscape Garden
Landscape Forest

Landscape Natural Feature
Recreation and Culture Outdoor recreation

Sports facility

Religion Church-related residence

7. Architectural Classification continued

Colonial Revival Other: Ranch

Materials continued

Foundation: concrete Walls: fiberglass aluminum vinyl

Roof: tin

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District Lenoir County, N. C.

Section 7: Description

Kennedy Memorial Home, an orphanage owned by the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, is a 1,240-acre tract of land in rural Lenoir County, North Carolina, on the south side of US Highway 70 five miles west of Kinston. The mailing address is 2557 Cedar Dell Lane, Kinston, NC 28504. The orphanage is located in the Falling Creek community. Falling Creek forms the north boundary, the Neuse River the south boundary of the historic district. Kennedy Home Road (State Road 1324) forms part of the west boundary just south of Highway 70, near the entrance to the orphanage. The orphanage buildings flank Cedar Dell Lane, a wide, straight avenue that extends east from Kennedy Home Road to its terminus at Cedar Dell, an antebellum plantation house that pre-dates the orphanage (NR 1971). Nineteen residential buildings, a church, and an educational building constructed from the 1920s to the early 2000s face the avenue or are arranged in a secondary row to the rear of the flanking buildings. To the rear of Cedar Dell stands a row of six agricultural buildings dating primarily from the mid-1900s. To the north of Cedar Dell Lane behind the residential buildings are a group of five food storage, processing, and maintenance buildings for the orphanage. Interspersed throughout the main campus are garages and sheds and recreational facilities—a swimming pool, tennis courts, softball field, and picnic shelter. The grounds of the campus are landscaped with large flat expanses of lawn, copses of old hardwood and cedar trees, and a partial row of large pecan trees flanking the avenue.

The present orphanage-owned acreage includes two tracts acquired in the 1970s that are not included in the nominated boundaries because they are not historically associated with the Kennedy Home. These tracts consist of a twenty-seven-acre parcel at the north end that connects the home to U.S. Highway 70, and a 120-acre strip of land along the lower west side of the property extending to the Neuse River. The total nominated acreage is 1,240 acres. The soil is sandy and the topography is generally level.

Cedar Dell, the plantation house (NR 1971), with two early outbuildings: a brick kitchen and a frame office, are what remains of the original antebellum plantation buildings. A 1920s brick garage stands to the rear. The house, constructed in 1832 and enlarged with a stylish Victorian addition in the 1880s, is one of the most significant residences in the county. In 1912 its owners and residents, Captain and Mrs. William Kennedy, deeded the 1,240-acre property to the trustees of the Thomasville Baptist orphanage for use as an orphanage. Although the site was occupied by the orphanage, a life estate clause in the deed allowed the Kennedys to continue to reside in the house until their deaths (Mrs. Kennedy in 1918 and Mr. Kennedy in 1929). The orphanage gradually constructed a full campus along the historic avenue to the house to serve orphans, whose numbers peaked in the mid-twentieth century and have gradually declined to the present.

A total of sixty-six resources comprise the Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District. This includes twenty-nine contributing buildings and five contributing structures (entrance gate, Cedar Dell fence, swimming pool, water tower, and its pump house) constructed during the period of significance from 1914 to 1959. Twenty-one buildings and three structures (picnic shelter, tennis courts, and a transmission line) are noncontributing because they were constructed after 1960. All of the buildings are located in the approximately seventy-five acre campus core except for the noncontributing Skeeter Hut and its annex utilized for camping excursions, the contributing

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3 Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District Lenoir County, N. C.

pole barn for feeding beef cattle, and a historic but ruinous pig parlor. The following specific features of the farmscape are counted as contributing sites in the inventory list: the upper cultivated fields east and south of the campus (approximately 350 acres); the large heart-shaped field set within the lower forest area (approximately fifty acres); the approximately twenty-five-acre meadow adjacent to the river landing where the orphanage's cattle herd was pastured prior to the 1990s; the Neuse River landing; the forest and swamps in the lower southwest bordering the Neuse River (approximately 700 acres), Lake Emily, and the cemetery. The softball field is a noncontributing site. Sixty percent of the total resources are contributing.

The historic buildings within the historic district consist of the plantation house and its kitchen, office, and garage, and twenty-five historic orphanage buildings. The oldest orphanage buildings are the 1920s Jar Room/Shop (#44), the 1920s potato curing barn (#45), and Pollock Cottage (#15), built 1936. During the 1940s and 1950s at the height of the orphanage's program, the church, parsonage, six modern cottages and staff houses, dairy barns, food storage buildings, and maintenance shops were built. Twenty noncontributing resources were constructed on the campus after 1959 as the orphanage has continued to evolve to the present. The period of significance begins in 1914 with the opening of the Kennedy Memorial Home and ends in 1959 when changes in child welfare agencies began to lessen the need for traditional orphanages.

The historic integrity of the forested and cultivated acreage of the Kennedy Memorial Home is crucial to the property's historical significance as an historic orphanage. The antebellum plantation landscape is unknown. A 1940 National Defense aerial photograph of Lenoir County (Fig. 1) shows the farmscape during the period of its significance as an orphanage with an agriculture emphasis. Comparison of the 1940 field patterns and woodland to its current appearance establishes its continuity and historical integrity. (Fig. 2. Historic District Tax Map). The orphanage campus, with Cedar Dell and its outbuildings at the rear, occupies the northwest corner of the tract, near US 70 Highway. The northern boundary, Falling Creek, retains the same wooded margins in 1940 and 2008. The Croom and Kennedy family cemetery stands behind the Cedar Dell house in a agricultural field. White Lace Creek flows through the center of the farm from west to east, then meanders south to join the Neuse River. To the east and south of the campus, huge cultivated fields stretch all the way to the east boundary of the tract and across White Lace Creek to the curved edge of the forest and swamplands occupying the lower onehalf of the farm along the Neuse River. Historic fields and pastureland cover the middle one-third of the farm. Lake Emily, a small natural pond, is located in the southeast section not far from the river. Two cultivated fields lie within the forest in 1940: a large "heart-shaped field" just inside the north border of the forest, and a meadow adjoining the Neuse River at the old Kennedy Landing. In 2008 the heart-shaped field and meadow remain basically unchanged. The dirt farm road (labeled "Plantation Road" on a 1938 survey plat), follows the exact same path in 1938 and 2008, extending south from the campus through the center of the farm, then along White Lace Creek and around the heart-shaped field to the river landing. The only difference in the intervening years is that in 1940 a large cultivated field stood northeast of the heart-shaped field, and in 1993 this was planted in pines. According to tradition, sugar cane and cotton were the primary crops cultivated under the Kennedys on

¹ 1938 Survey of the Kennedy Home, 1,240 acres, by E. L. Parker, surveyor, copy in the nomination file, N. C. Historic Preservation Office.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>7</u> Page <u>4</u> Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District Lenoir County, N. C.

the north half of the farm. From the mid-1910s until 1993, the same fields grew vegetables, corn, and wheat, and pastured pigs, dairy, and beef cattle. In 1993 the orphanage ceased its agricultural operations.

Integrity Statement:

The historic buildings at the Kennedy Memorial Home have been maintained carefully over the years and retain excellent integrity. Cedar Dell and its early outbuildings are completely intact and maintained to museum standards of authenticity. The brick walls and the architectural features of the porches of the church, cottages, staff houses and food preparation buildings are unaltered. A few of the older brick buildings, such as the Jar Room/Shop and Potato Curing Barn/Craft Shop, are painted. In recent years, most of the sash windows on the older buildings have been replaced with vinyl replacements, but the muntin patterns replicate the configurations of the original sashes.

Landscape integrity is equally high. The lower half of the farm has always been covered with forest and swamps, just like the other large farms along the Neuse River in Lenoir County. The current pattern of fields and woodland is nearly identical to that shown in the earliest known aerial photograph of 1940. The 1940 farm road, the river landing, and the distribution of fields and meadows has remained the same since the midtwentieth century, reflecting the farm's diversified row crop and livestock activities.

Inventory List

Note: The following inventory list begins with the orphanage campus, then continues with the agricultural buildings and landscape resources located to the south. All resources are categorized as C (contributing) or NC (noncontributing) based on the following criteria. Contributing resources were constructed prior to 1959 and retain their architectural integrity. Any resource built after the end of the period of significance, 1959, is noncontributing due to its age (NC-age). If not a building, the resource type is identified in parentheses. Unless otherwise noted, all buildings are one-story and all roofs are asphalt. Resources built before 1959 that have lost their architectural integrity because of substantial additions and/or alterations incompatible with their historic pre-1959 character are categorized as noncontributing because of these changes (NC-alt).

- C 1. Entrance Gate. 1956. (structure) Entrance gate at Kennedy Home Road across entrance to Cedar Dell Lane. Brick piers support a decorative cast-metal arch containing the name "Kennedy Memorial Home." A marble plaque on one pier is engraved "Erected by Kennedy Home Alumni 1956."
- C2. Kennedy Memorial Home Baptist Church. 1956. Colonial Revival-style brick front-gabled church with a pedimented portico and a 3-stage steeple. Replacement clear sash windows illuminate the sanctuary. At the left side is an L-shaped 1-story arcaded Sunday School wing. Construction funds came from bequests by Miss Augustine Parker, Bertie County, and Mrs. Corine Parker, Vance County.
- C 3. Pastor's Home. 1956. Brick hipped-roof Ranch house with a picture window, vinyl replacement windows,

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>7</u> Page <u>5</u> Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District Lenoir County, N. C.

and an integral garage. Plaque beside front door reads "Pastors Home - Sallie A. Baker Estate, Hartford County & Mrs. Varina D. Cheshire Estate, Edenton N.C., 1956."

- C4. Columbus-Cannon Cottage. 1950. Brick group home of Ranch house style, 9 bays wide, with 2-bay front wing at left façade, gable-on-hip roof, large metal casement windows, some located at the corners. Original 4-bay wide front porch now enclosed. This became the W. Roy Poole Administration Building in 1985.
- C5. Bunker Cottage. 1957. Brick group home cottage of Ranch house style, 9 bays wide, side-gabled roof, 5-bay wide flat-roof porch with concrete floor and decorative metal posts, center entrance with 3-pane transom. Four-bay deep rear ell. Replacement vinyl 8-over-8 sash windows. Plaque beside door reads "Bunker Memorial Cottage, C. W. Bunker Estate, Surry County 1957." C. W. Bunker, a grandson of the internationally famous Siamese twins Chang and Eng Bunker of Surry County, N.C., donated money from the sale of his property in Surry County to the Kennedy Memorial Home. C. W. Bunker was childless and made the donation to support orphans.
- C6. Vehicle Shed. 1940s. 1-story, 2-car concrete block vehicle shed with front-gable roof, posts of concrete block with rounded corners, exposed ceiling joists, and an enclosed storage area at rear.
- NC7. Haigler-Overcash Education Center. 2005. Education Center that mimics the form of a group home of Ranch design. The 9-bay wide façade has a gable-on-hip roof, a gabled front wing, and a recessed glazed center 3-bay section with a gabled 1-bay entrance porch. Vinyl sash windows. The building extends 9 bays deep to the rear. This alternative school for children at the Kennedy Memorial Home has a staff of five teachers and a principal from the Lenoir County Public School system.
- NC8. Aydlett Davis Cottage. 1974. Jack Adams, architect. Group home in a Ranch house design, 7 bays wide, brick walls with a low side-gabled roof. At left is a 2-bay front-gabled wing. Along part of the length of the facade is a shallow engaged porch with boxed wood posts. The main façade features four sets of three 1-over-1 sash windows with vertical vinyl sided aprons. Other features include a center chimney and 4-bay rear ell.
- C9. Ferebee Cottage. 1959. Brick group home in the form of a Colonial Revival-style Ranch house, 9 bays wide, with a side-gable-on-hip roof, 5-bay-wide front porch with new ceramic tile floor, decorative metal posts, and flat roof. Center door has 3-bay transom. Other features include a rear 4-bay deep ell and interior chimney. Replacement vinyl 8-over-8 sash windows. Plaque beside door reads "Ferebee Cottage Built by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Ferebee and children Mrs. Mary Ferebee Wynne, Henry Clay Ferebee III, John Edwin Ferebee, Camden, N.C. 1959."
- NC10. Blackwell Cottage. 2000. 1-story group home of modern design, with brick walls and a deep hipped roof. 6-bays wide, with a partial façade front-gabled porch. Vinyl sash windows. An identical cottage was built in the same year at the Mills Home in Thomasville.

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- NC11. B. W. Spilman Family Duplex. 2000. 1-story side-gable duplex, 8 bays wide, with central 4-bay block taller than the 2 bay flankers. Center engaged 4-bay porch, vinyl sash windows.
- NC12. Picnic Shelter. 1998. (structure) Wood frame side-gabled picnic shelter, set in a grove of oak and other hardwood trees on north side of Cedar Dell Lane.
- NC13. Tennis Courts. 1960. (structure) A pair of 2 asphalt tennis courts, surrounded by a high chain link fence, located beside the swimming pool.
- C14. Jones Swimming Pool. 1957. (structure) In-ground concrete pool with wide concrete surround, enclosed by chain link fence.
 - a. Pump house. C. Small T-111 building contains a plaque that reads "Jones Swimming Pool, Mary V. Jones Estate, Winston-Salem N.C., 1957."
 - b. Power house. C Small shed-roof brick and frame building beside the pump house.
- C15. Pollock Cottage. 1936. The only pre-1950s group home still standing, Pollock Cottage is a 2-story hipped roof brick residence of simple Craftsman design, 4 bays wide and 4 bays deep. A 3-bay hipped 1-story porch with Craftsman brick and wood posts and a plain wood railing shelters the two front doors. On the east side is a porte-cochere with identical Craftsman posts. To the rear is a 1-story 2-bay ell. Other features include running bond brick and 6-over-6 wood sash windows. The house contains a center-hall plan with front parlors, a staff bedroom in the rear, a large dining room and kitchen in the rear, and 6 children's bedrooms upstairs. Named in honor of Dr. Spilman's first wife, Mozelle Pollock, its original function was a cottage for older girls.
- NC16. Jones Infirmary. 1970. Building of low Ranch design with deck-on-hip roof, 5 bays wide, 5 bays deep. The eaves extend around all four sides to create a shallow "porch." The center front bay is a deep recessed porch with an entrance and a picture window. Built as an infirmary with a capacity of eight children and a 2-bedroom apartment for the nurse, this now serves as Jones Cottage, a group home.
- C17. Cedar Dell Plantation House. 1832. 1880s. 2 ½-story brick side-gabled brick house, originally composed of the three right bays that formed a side-hall plan double-pile Federal-style house. In the late 1800s the left set of rooms was added to create a center hall double-pile house. The entire house was remodeled on the exterior with a polychromed slate roof, three ornate front-gabled dormer windows, and a polygonal bay window in the left front bay. Two interior chimneys project from each gable end. A three-bay Eastlake-style 1-story front veranda with crested iron railing, a one-story right side sunroom, and a two-story rear veranda complete the transformation from Federal to ornate Victorian dwelling. Some original Federal interior finish remains, but the woodwork largely consists of well-preserved Eastlake-style work. Centered in the front yard is a metal, in-ground early 20th century fountain.
 - a. Fence (C structure). Early 20^{th} century. The front yard is enclosed by a white wood picket fence with brick posts.

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- C18. Cedar Dell Kitchen. Ca. 1832. One-room 1-story side-gabled brick kitchen, apparently contemporary with the house. Features include painted 1-3 common bond brick, a gable end chimney, a Victorian 6-panel door, and a front shed porch with boxed posts. Linked by open breezeway to rear door of house.
- C19. Cedar Dell Office. Ca. 1850. One-room front-gabled, weatherboarded farm office, originally located south of Cedar Dell. It was moved to current location at rear of Cedar Dell prior to 1970. The front batten door and side 6-over-9 wood sash windows appear to be original.
- C20. Cedar Dell Garage. 1920s. Brick, hipped-roof 1-story 2-car garage located to rear of Cedar Dell and its kitchen. The brick has been painted. Windows are replacement vinyl 6-over-6 sashes. Garage doors are double wood replacement doors.
- C21. Cedar Dell Cemetery. (site) 1830s-1929. A family graveyard divided into two sections, located behind the Cedar Dell plantation house. The west section, for the Kennedy family, contains five monuments enclosed by an iron fence. William Lafayette Kennedy (1845-1929) and his wife Emily Hardee Kennedy (1853-1918) are buried beneath a large Neoclassical Revival-style columned granite monument that shelters a marble angel carved in Italy and enclosed in a glass case. William's parents, Thomas J. Kennedy (1817-1884) and Martha E. Kennedy (1826-1882) have ornate obelisks. William's brother Jesse C. Kennedy (1841-1889) has a granite headstone and brother Sidney Gustavus Kennedy (1855-1877) has a marble obelisk.

The east section contains seven Herring family marble headstones, enclosed by a chain link fence. The Herrings owned the plantation in the 1840s-1850s. James E. M. Herring (1824-1854) and his wife Julia Metts Herring (1827-1866) share a single headstone. Individual headstones mark the graves of Henry Herring (d. 1845), aged sixty years; his son Henry Herring (d. 1837), aged fifteen years; and four children of Joshua G. and Sarah U. Herring: Rachael (date illegible); Joshua (d. 1846); Josephene (d. 1850), aged three years; and a baby whose name is illegible (d. 1850). The oldest inscribed monument is that of Henry Herring, who died in 1837.

- C22. Milking Barn. 1940s. 1-story milking barn of concrete block, with a front-gable orientation, 7 bays wide and 13 bays deep. A 6-bay deep open feeding shelter with concrete block posts with rounded corners extends to the rear. On the interior, a stanchion-type milking system produced milk from the orphanage's dairy herd for the orphans. The window openings have no frames. Connected at the rear corner of the barn is a tall concrete stave silo.
- C23. Granary/Garage. 1950s. 2-story concrete-block building with a high side-gambrel roof that contains 6 open vehicle bays on the north side. The upper floor contains open doors and windows to allow grain to be loaded. The rafter ends are exposed.
- C24. Water Tower. Ca. 1949. (structure) Metal water tower consisting of a round water container with a conical top supported on a thick central round metal post with four smaller corner posts, horizontal struts, and connecting

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cables.

- a. Pump house. C (building) ca. 1949. Concrete-block front-gabled pump house with a front door.
- b. Pump house. C (structure) ca. 1949. Concrete-block shed-roof pump house with a front door.

NC25. Automotive Shop. Ca. 1985. Side-gabled concrete-block building, 6 bays wide, with 2 garage bays in the front and 1 garage bay in the north side. Windows are 4-pane metal type. A wood shed-roof porch shelters the right front bays. This was built as a maintenance garage for farm vehicles.

C26. Equipment Shed. 1950s. Front-gabled 1-story concrete-block shed with exposed rafter tails. A sliding wood garage door occupies the front elevation. The sides have no openings.

NC27. Greenhouse. 1995. Metal-framed greenhouse with bowed roof form, covered with fiberglass and heavy plastic.

C28. Dairy Barn. 1940s. Gambrel-roofed concrete-block dairy barn, 1 bay wide and 8 bays deep. Windows are 4-pane metal type. Rafter tails are exposed. The plan features a central aisle. Along the south side is a concrete block and frame shed-roof chicken coop that opens into a fenced fowl yard with a pond.

NC29. Softball Field. (site) Ca. 2000. Softball field enclosed by chain link fence. Two shed-roof open wood dugouts behind backstop.

NC30. Williams Cottage. 1968. Jack Adams, architect. Brick Ranch-style group home, L-shaped, with side-gable roof and interior chimney. Casement windows in sets of four, with vertical-sided aprons, give the cottage a modern look. Along the façade, an engaged porch with wood posts shelters three sets of 1-over1 wood sash windows. The donor, Mrs. Lanie Williams, left her farm in Stantonsburg to Kennedy Memorial Home to build this family cottage where brothers and sisters could live together, enabling them to adjust better than if they were separated by gender into different cottages.

NC31. Storage Shed. 1968. Small front-gable frame shed with vinyl siding and attached 1-bay shed-roof garage addition. This is located immediately behind the Williams Cottage.

NC32. Staff House No. 1090. 1968. Jack Adams, architect. Side-gabled frame Ranch-style private staff house, 6 bays wide, with an attached front carport and screen porch. Windows are casement type. Walls have vinyl siding. Constructed from a bequest of Miss Lillian Williams of Wilson.

NC33. Staff House No. 1102. 1968. Jack Adams, architect. Side-gabled frame Ranch-style private staff house, 6 bays wide, with an attached front carport. Windows are casement type. Walls have vinyl siding. Constructed from a bequest of Miss Lillian Williams of Wilson.

NC34. Bryant Cottage. 1968. Jack Adams, architect. Brick group home of the Ranch-style, 6 bays wide, with a 2-

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bay front wing, a long rear ell, and a gable-on-hip roof. Across the façade is an engaged porch with wood posts, covered with vinyl. Beneath the porch are continuous 1-over-1 wood sash windows. The plaque beside the front door reads "Estate of J. A. & Julia T. Bryant, Aberdeen, N.C., 1968." Built along with the Williams Cottage as a family cottage where siblings could live together. Twelve children and their house-parents lived here as a large family.

C35. Garage. 1950s. Shed-roof concrete-block 1-bay 2-car garage with exposed rafter ends and a pent roof across the open front elevation. This sits on the north side of Cedar Dell Lane at the back of the orphanage complex. It is associated with a house that has been destroyed.

C36. Staff House No. 2344. 1940s. Private staff house built of bungalow style in the 1940s from a Sears & Roebuck kit, according to Richard W. Poteat, long-time employee of Kennedy Memorial Home. The 1-story side-gable house has an engaged porch with replacement wood posts and railing. Although uninhabited, it remains substantially intact, with wide eaves with original eave brackets, a front gable dormer, a side bay window, and 12-over-1, 9-over-1, and 4-over-1 wood sash windows. The foundation is rusticated concrete block. Aluminum siding covers the original weatherboard.

C37. Garage. 1950s. Side-gabled concrete-block garage with 2 open bays. It is associated with a private staff house that burned down.

C38. Garage. 1920s. Pyramidal-hipped garage with vinyl siding applied over the original narrow weatherboard, 3 bays wide, with 6-over-1 sash windows in front and 2-over-2 sashes on the sides. A wide double batten door serves as the vehicle entrance. This sits behind the 1940s Sears private staff house #2344, but it appears to date from the 1920s and probably served an earlier house on the site.

C39. Laundry/Sewing Room. 1940s. Substantial brick building with high hipped metal roof, five bays wide and 2 bays deep. A brick firewall divides it into two halves, each with a double front door. The right section served as the laundry; the left as the sewing room. Brick is laid in running bond variation. The laundry has larger window openings with 12-over-12 replacement vinyl sashes. The sewing room has windows with 9-over-9 replacement vinyl sashes. With the shift to group homes containing washing and drying machines and the shift away from making clothing for the orphans, the building became known as the "General Maintenance" building.

NC40. Bath House. 2008. Side-gabled, concrete-block bath house with small 4-light ventilator windows located beneath the roof eaves. This contains showers and laundry facilities for visiting groups.

NC41. Gymnasium. 1970s. Contemporary-style brick gymnasium, 7 bays wide, with a shingled deck-on-hip roof with deep eaves that gives the building a squat appearance. Walls are laid with wide, thin Roman brick, with brick pilasters marking the bays. Two sets of recessed double doors are the only façade openings. Funded through a bequest from Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Robinson of Sampson County.

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- C42. Shed. 1950s. Small front-gabled concrete-block shed with a front double door. This building is attached to the 1970s gymnasium by a metal breezeway, but originally was free-standing.
- C43. Brogden Food Locker. Early 1950s. The substantial side-gabled brick building contains cold storage lockers for meat, storage for canned goods, and a kitchen where meat was processed and meals prepared. At front is a gabled wing, at the rear a gabled ell. Brick is laid in 1-to-6 bond. Windows are 6-over-6 and 4-over-4 replacement vinyl sash. The gable ends have vinyl siding. In the center of the façade is a double door entrance with a metal shed porch addition. Two single doors open in the right elevation. The left one-third of the building is a large open dining hall where students took some of their meals. The building is named for E. W. Brogden, supervisor of food at the home, who retired in 1949.
- C44. Jar Room/Shop. 1920s. The building known as the Shop is actually 3 connected buildings. The oldest, at right, is a square brick "jar room" with a pyramidal hipped metal roof. The raised basement functioned as a dairy for storage of milk products. Canning jars were stored in the upper level, reached by wooden steps.
 - a. Garage. C 1930s. The second building, a hip-roofed brick garage, dates from the 1930s and is one bay wide. In the 1950s a concrete block shop addition linked the two buildings and wrapped around the left side of the garage. This has industrial metal windows and a side-gabled roof.
- C45. Potato Curing Barn/Craft Shop. 1920s, with 1950s addition. The original building, a tall 1-to-5 common bond brick front-gable building, functioned as a sweet potato curing barn. It contains a single batten door on the front, a single door on the east side, and two foundation-level vents on the north side. The brick is painted and rafter tails exposed. A shed-roofed brick addition with 1-to-5 bond brick and a front batten door was added shortly afterward to the left side. In the 1950s a 5-bay-wide open picnic shelter with concrete block posts with rounded corners was attached to the left side. Later this was enclosed with paired wooden sash windows and concrete block aprons to serve as the craft house.
- C46. Workman House. 1958. Staff house erected in 1958 for the manager of the Brogden Food Locker. The side-gabled brick Ranch has a shallow front-gable wing and 8-over-8 and 6-over-6 sash windows. A plaque beside the door reads "Workman Residence, George C. Workman Estate, Davidson County, 1958". Workman was a bachelor farmer. The first resident of the house was Willie Walker, food manager, who lived there until 1987.
- C47. Garage. Ca. 1958. 1950s side-gable concrete-block garage, 2 bays wide, with 6-over-6 wood sash windows. This sits to the rear of the Workman Cottage and apparently was built to serve it.
- NC48. Spilman House. 1970s. Low and long brick gable-on-hip-roof Ranch built as a staff house. The 2-bay garage at the right end creates a 10-bay wide façade, with 6-over-9 and 6-over-6 wood sash windows. The plaque beside the door reads "In memory of B. W. Spilman, Kinston, N.C."
- NC49. Pridgen House. 1970s. Low, long brick hipped-roof Ranch built as a staff house. The 2-bay garage at the left end creates a 7-bay wide façade, with horizontal 2-over-2 wood sash windows. The plaque beside the door

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reads "In memory of May B. Pridgen, Kelly, N.C."

NC50. Williams House (Private House #1659). 1960s. Hipped-roof brick Ranch-style house built as a staff house, 5 bays wide including a 1-bay garage at the left side. 2-over-2 horizontal wood sash windows. The house faces Kennedy Home Road, leading to US Hwy. 70. The house is named for Roger E. Williams, superintendent 1967-1980.

- C51. Pole Barn. 1950s. Located along the farm road halfway between the orphanage complex and the Neuse River, this is a gabled shelter with weatherboarded walls and a metal roof called the "pole barn" built as a hay storage and feed barn for heifers. A metal silo is attached to one corner. This sat in a fenced pasture for young cattle. Cotton equipment is now stored here, since the farm ceased to raise beef cattle many years ago.
- NC52. Skeeter Hut. 1977. Camp cottage called the "Skeeter Hut" built to replace the original late 1940s hut that burned when struck by lightning. The side-gabled 3-bay wide building has a huge exterior end brick chimney, a shed, screened front porch, and vertical wood siding and sash windows.
- NC53. Skeeter Hut Annex. 1970s. Annex to the 1977 Skeeter Hut, built at the same time, as overflow bedrooms and baths. The side-gabled building is 3 bays wide, with sash windows and vertical wood siding.
- NC 54. Pig Parlor. 1950s. Shed-roofed vertical-sided building, on a concrete floor, where pigs were fattened for slaughter. It is known as the "finishing floor" or "pig parlor." Hog cultivation ceased in 1993 when the orphanage ended their agricultural production. The building is now ruinous.
- C55. Upper fields. (site) Nearly continuous group of eight cultivated fields east and south of the orphanage campus that are unchanged from at least 1940, and probably represent a continuation of the late 1800s cotton and sugar cane fields of the Kennedy Farm. Size is approximately 350 acres. The generally rectangular-shaped fields flank a dirt road known as the "plantation road."
- C56. Heart-shaped field. (site) The unique heart shape of this approximately 50-acre field, located in the central lower half of the farm and surrounded by forest, follows the shape of White Lace Creek as it flows south into the Neuse River at the river landing. The 1940 National Defense aerial photo indicates that this field was slightly larger then, but it retains its shape.
- C57. River meadow. (site) The somewhat oval meadow, approximately 25 acres, adjacent to the Neuse River landing has been a feature of the Kennedy Memorial Home farm since at least 1940. Here the beef herd was pastured during the 1920s and 1930s.
- C58. Neuse River landing (site) This is a low sandy bank on the Neuse River that functioned since the antebellum era as a boat landing. The dirt farm road terminates at the landing.

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C59. Forest and swamps. (site) Approximately 700 acres of natural forest and swamps border the Neuse River and extend along the west border of the parcel almost up to White Lace Creek. Much of the forest is old-growth timber.

C60. Lake Emily. (site) Adjacent to the Skeeter Hut is a slew (a long, narrow pond) ringed by cypress trees, of approximately ten acres. It is named for Emily Hardee Kennedy. The children fish and canoe in the pond while camping in the Skeeter Hut. Local lore calls the pond a "crater lake" created by a meteor, others call it a tributary of the Neuse River.

NC61. Transmission Line. (structure) A high transmission line to Kinston was built through the southwest corner of the property in the 1960s. It crosses the Neuse River at the boat landing.

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Section 8 Page 13 **Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District** Lenoir County, N.C.

Section 8: Statement of Significance

The Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District is a 1,240-acre Baptist orphanage that began operation in 1914 on Cedar Dell, the antebellum Lenoir County plantation of the Croom and Herring families that became the prosperous late nineteenth and early twentieth century farm of William L. Kennedy and his wife Emily Hardee Kennedy. The orphanage, adjacent to U.S. Highway 70 midway between La Grange and Kinston, North Carolina, is one of a small group of historic orphanages that survive in the state. From 1914 through its peak enrollment of 160 children in the mid-twentieth century, the Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District holds local significance under Criterion A in the areas of social history and agriculture. The Cedar Dell residence, a two-and-one-half-story brick side-hall house of Federal design, is linked to the distinguished town houses of nearby New Bern, North Carolina. Cedar Dell also exhibits important Eastlake style additions. The house was listed in the National Register in 1971. With its original brick kitchen and other outbuildings it has served as the orphanage superintendent's dwelling since 1930. Flanking the broad avenue leading to Cedar Dell are the historic brick Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Ranch-style cottages and Baptist Church built for the children from the 1930s to 1959. The second row of buildings to the rear includes dairy barns and food storage and processing buildings built from the 1920s to the 1950s for the agricultural production of the farm, which not only fed the children but provided money for the institution. Together, the plantation with its important dwelling and outbuildings, fields and woodland, and the orphanage with its group cottages, staff houses, and full complement of farm buildings and food processing operations form a layered ensemble of local significance. Of the total of sixty-six resources on the property, twenty-nine buildings, five structures, and seven sites date to the period of significance from 1832 to 1959. Twelve principal buildings and nine outbuildings postdate 1960 and are noncontributing. Sixty percent of the resources are contributing. Although the orphanage is still in operation, the period after 1959 is not of exceptional historic significance. The Kennedy Home's acreage, consisting of cultivated fields in the upper half and forest and swamp in the lower half extending to the southern border, the Neuse River. The patterns of field and woodland are largely intact since at least the mid-twentieth century, when the orphanage reached its largest enrollment. Although the Kennedy Memorial Home is owned by an agency of the Baptist Church, it meets Criteria Consideration A because it derives its primary significance from its importance as a historic orphanage.

Historical Background

Mrs. Isaac Croom Sr. built the two-and-one-half-story, side-gabled brick house with a side-hall, double-pile plan, known as Cedar Dell in 1832 on a large plantation along U.S. Highway 70, halfway between La Grange and Kinston. ² Cedar Dell is one of a small number of architecturally-significant plantation houses built in the Federal idiom typical of early nineteenth-century New Bern, North Carolina, a port town located at the mouth of the Neuse River about seventy-five miles east of Lenoir County. Because Lenoir County's records were destroyed in a courthouse fire in the late 1800s, land records do not exist and much of the county's history is based on family tradition. Isaac Croom Sr. had apparently died before 1832. The next occupant was Henry

² Industrial Issue of Kinston Free Press, 1906, 105.

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Herring, who bequeathed the plantation to his son George W. Herring at his death in 1845. In 1855 Thomas Jefferson Kennedy purchased Cedar Dell from George Herring and in 1856 moved his family from their home on a nearby farm into the house. His son, William LaFayette Kennedy (1845-1929), purchased the plantation in 1876.³

William Kennedy, known as Captain after his service in the Confederate army during the Civil War, became one of the county's largest landowners, an industrialist owner of Coahoma Grist Mill, and a director of several banks in Kinston. In the 1880s Kennedy undertook a major renovation of Cedar Dell that transformed it into a Victorian mansion. An double-pile, two-story brick addition created a center hall plan, with a full one-story Eastlake-style front veranda with wrought-iron roof balustrade, a patterned slate roof with three Eastlake-detailed dormer windows, and a full sunporch across the side of the original core. Inside, the original rooms retain some Federal mantels and woodwork, and the addition features distinguished Eastlake finishes.

Immediately to the rear of the house is a side-gabled brick kitchen with end chimney apparently contemporary with the Federal house. No other brick kitchens have been documented in Lenoir County.⁴ A front-gable, weatherboarded one-room building to the side of the kitchen is believed to have served as a farm office. Its heavy timber brace frame indicates construction prior to the late 1800s. It was moved from a nearby field west of Cedar Dell. This group of outbuildings also includes a brick garage built by Captain Kennedy in the 1920s. A row of slave houses stood on the antebellum plantation along the north side of Cedar Dell Lane. These disappeared many years ago.⁵

Captain Kennedy took a personal interest in his farm. Two of his nephews, Sidney Kennedy and Eugene Rayner, lived on the farm in 1900 and assisted him.⁶ A special 1906 issue of the *Kinston Free Press* describes his model farm in glowing terms:

The Berkshire pigs rolling in fat, produced by peanut-feasting, the flock of mammoth turkeys, of choice Kentucky breed, the covey of haughty peafowls, the herd of 50 sleek fat Jerseys, a long row of stables, suggesting a number of horses and mules, neat and commodious outbuildings on the terraced green give evidence of the smiling plenty that is enjoyed by Capt. Kennedy and his attractive, refined and traveled wife.⁷

William and Emily Kennedy actively participated in Lenoir County's social life. They kept a yacht at the river landing at the southern end of their property, which they motored down the Neuse River to their summer cottage

³ Kennedy Memorial Home National Register Nomination, N. C. Historic Preservation Office, 1971.

⁴ Robbie Jones, entry on Cedar Dell in *Coastal Plain & Fancy: The Historic Architecture of Lenoir County and Kinston, N. C.*, by M. Ruth Little, 372-373.

⁵ Interview with Richard Poteat, Director of Support Services, Kennedy Memorial Home, August 29, 2008.

⁶ U.S. Census, Population Schedule, 1900, Lenoir County, Falling Creek Township, page 116A. ancestry.com accessed on Oct. 14, 2008

⁷ Industrial Issue of Kinston Free Press, 1906, p. 105.

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at Morehead City. Captain Kennedy indulged his favorite sport of fishing when he traveled to Mexico, Alaska, Florida, and other exotic angling destinations. ⁸

Although not Baptists or churchgoers in general, a series of fortuitous circumstances led the childless elderly couple to convert their farm into an orphanage. A neighboring farmer, Herman Sutton, happened to be active in the First Baptist Church of Kinston. The Sunday School subscribed to Charity and Children, the newsletter of the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage, an institution established in Davidson County in 1885 by the North Carolina Baptists. Through Sutton, the Kennedys occasionally attended the church and often read the wellwritten newletter. Emily Kennedy's niece, Mozelle Pollock, had married B. W. Spilman, a prominent Baptist minister, leader in the Southern Baptist Convention, and author, in 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Spilman often visited the Kennedys in the early 1900s. In January, 1912, the childless couple, then in their late sixties, decided to donate their mansion and farm to the trustees of the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage (later renamed the Mills Home). They invited the Spilmans to Cedar Dell and revealed their offer, then worked out the details with the trustees, and signed the deed on April 26, 1912. The Kennedys reserved the residence and a fifty-acre yard during their lifetimes. The orphanage would be established as soon as possible, and an annuity would be paid to the Kennedys during their lifetimes. They deeded the 1,240 acres to the orphanage with a life estate for themselves. ⁹ Mr. Kennedy continued to farm until 1913, when the orphanage took over agricultural operations. Mrs. Kennedy died in 1918, Mr. Kennedy in 1929. At this time Cedar Cell became the residence of the superintendent. Various superintendents have lived there until the present.

The Kennedys' deed to the Thomasville Baptist Orphanage describes the farm as beginning on the south side of Falling Creek at Henry Herring's corner, then south to the Neuse River, thence down the course of the river to the wire fence marking the boundary of the land of J. H. Barden Sr., then north to a small drain on the bank of Falling Creek and up the courses of said creek to the beginning, containing an estimated 1200 acres. According to the deed, the land was conveyed to W. L. Kennedy by Thomas J. Kennedy in Deed Book 3, page 4, and by J. H. Darden and wife by deed in Book 17, page 701. Exceptions to the orphanage's deed are the Kennedy Graveyard, with a right-of-way reserved for access, and three small lots bordering Falling Creek: Ervin Kennedy's two-acre lot; Alex Rouse's two-acre lot, and Jane Suttons' one-half-acre lot. The deed further stipulates that the land shall be used for an orphanage known as the Kennedy Memorial Home, and shall be forever used as an orphanage or training school for orphans and other children. If the land is not used for this purpose, it shall revert to the estate of W. L. Kennedy.

The Early Kennedy Memorial Home, 1912-World War II

A little over two years after the land was transferred to the Thomasville trustees, the orphanage formally opened for business. The first two cottages, Lenoir Building for boys and the Biggs Building for girls, were finished in

⁸ Industrial Issue of Kinston Free Press, 105.

⁹ Spilman, *The Mills Home: A History of the Baptist Orphanage Movement in North Carolina*, 173-174; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston and Lenoir County*, 289-292.

¹⁰ Lenoir County Deed Book 44, page 277.

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1914 through funds from J. Herman Canady of Kinston, Noah Biggs of Scotland Neck, N. C., and a number of other donors in Lenoir County. Since the public road (State Road 1324, now Kennedy Home Road) was not contiguous to the Kennedy farm, a few acres adjacent to the farm were purchased in 1914 to connect to the road and create an entrance to the Kennedy Home. In summer 1914 the first eighteen orphans, transfers from the Mills Home at Thomasville, arrived at the Kennedy Memorial Home. ¹¹ Throughout its history to the present, the Kennedy Memorial Home has operated as an adjunct institution to the Mills Home. In the early years, children were admitted at Thomasville and then transferred when vacancies occurred. By the early 1940s children were sent directly to Kennedy Memorial Home. The 1943 to 1965 annual reports indicate that all of the children at Kennedy Home came from homes in eastern North Carolina, and especially from Lenoir and surrounding counties. ¹²

During the orphanage's first era, from its 1912 founding to the death of Captain Kennedy in 1929, the campus developed into a solid row of group homes, a church, staff housing and accessory buildings on both sides of the main avenue leading to Cedar Dell. Early directors changed frequently. The first director was Hartwell Scarborough, soon succeeded by the Reverend C. L. Merrell. Reverend Theodore B. Davis, the first long-term director, served as superintendent from 1917 to 1924, and was known as a builder. He planted pecan and fruit trees along the main avenue and throughout the campus. The third cottage, Hardee Cottage for older boys, was financed by Mrs. Kennedy's sale of the diamonds Capt. Kennedy had given her over the years. The dormitory was completed in 1917, the morning of the day that Mrs. Kennedy died. She had been quite ill for some time and seemingly forced herself to stay alive until she could see the completed building.

Under Superintendent Davis ten small tenant houses (perhaps including some slave quarters?) in the center of the grounds were moved back along the bank of Falling Creek and served as tenant housing or as storage. A concrete block-making machine was purchased and used in construction projects. Following a new philosophy of the Thomasville orphanage, the central dining room was discontinued so that each cottage became a family group, with the children eating in their cottages. The first campus church, a frame Gothic Revival-style sanctuary, was completed in 1919. Three classrooms adjoining the chapel were used for Sunday school as well as a regular school during the week. A laundry, water tank, two cottages, a dairy barn, two silos, a Delco lighting plant, a swimming pool, a sweet potato curing house (No. 45), and a canning facility (No. 44) were constructed under Davis' tenure. ¹³

Brothers Franklin and Joseph Hough served successively as superintendents from 1924 to 1943, a period of sustained growth and stability for the Kennedy Memorial Home. During Franklin Hough's superintendency from 1924 to 1928, Spilman Cottage for older girls was completed in 1924, and the farming operation continued to evolve. ¹⁴ His younger brother, Joseph (Joe) Carl Hough, served as superintendent from 1928 to 1943.

¹¹ Spilman, 176-177.

¹² Keith-Lucas, A Hundred Years of Caring 1885-1985, 28; Annual Report of Baptist Orphanage of North Carolina, 1943-1949; 1953, 1963-1965.

¹³ Spilman, 178-180.

¹⁴ Keith-Lucas, 28-29.

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Following Captain Kennedy's death in 1929, Joe Hough and his wife were the first superintendents to reside in Cedar Dell. The 1930 United States census lists all of the residents of the orphanage, from the superintendent, matrons, teachers and other staff, to each orphan. The list takes up the last four pages of the Falling Creek township population tabulation. Superintendent Joe C. Hough was in charge of twelve matrons, five teachers, and 134 orphans ranging in age from seven to nineteen years old. He also supervised the farm staff: E. W. Brogden, dairyman; Mr. Pendergraph, truck farmer; Edward Cooper, farm manager; a carpenter, and two individuals listed as orphanage servants. Staff members' families, including wives and children, and in one instance, a private servant, are listed as well. ¹⁵ Soon after Joe Hough took over, he arranged for the high school students, who had earlier attended school at the orphanage, to attend school seven miles west in La Grange. ¹⁶ Elementary school students continued to attend school at the orphanage through 1959.

It is said of Hough's talent for agriculture that during his management "No spot of the six hundred acres is allowed to remain idle. If it is not immediately needed for fruits, vegetables, nuts or feed it is planted to some kind of legume and turned back to the soil to enrich it." Hough had a new mule barn, granary, mill house, hammer mill (for grinding grain), and meat packing house built. (All of these buildings have been demolished.) He added a herd of beef cattle. Cotton and tobacco cultivation ceased so that the farm could produce food to nourish the children; feed for the hogs, poultry, and cattle; and fertilizer. E. W. Brogden, superintendent of buildings and grounds during Joe Hough's leadership, was indispensable in the Kennedy Memorial Home's progress during the 1930s and 1940s. Because he spent so many years working with the children, the modern food storage locker building completed in the early 1950s was named Brogden Food Building in his honor.¹⁸

The first complex of six group homes, known as cottages, was constructed from 1914 to the 1930s along both sides of Cedar Dell Lane leading to the plantation house. These consisted of Lenoir (1914), Biggs (1914), Hardee (1917), Spilman (1924), Canady (1936), and Pollock (1936). All were two-story brick domestic buildings with hipped roofs, wide one-story porches across the front, and large windows. The first two had transitional Colonial Revival designs; later cottages were of Craftsman style. This two-story housing became obsolete in the late 1940s due to the separation between the supervisor and the children, new concepts for child rearing, and maintenance expenses. They were demolished from the late 1960s to the early 1980s. Biggs Cottage was demolished in 1999 due to heavy damage from Hurricane Floyd. Only Pollock Cottage (No. 15) still stands. Pollock, a two-story brick building of Craftsman style, with a large front porch and side porte-cochere, contains six upstairs bedrooms designed to house fifteen children, although it sheltered thirty children in its heyday in the mid-twentieth century. Two downstairs bedrooms housed the matrons. In place of the demolished cottages one-story modern buildings were constructed.

¹⁵ U.S. Census, 1930, Population Schedule, Lenoir County, Falling Creek Township, pages 19A to 20B, accessed on www.ancestry.com on Oct. 14, 2008.

¹⁶ Spilman, 178-82.

¹⁷ Spilman, 182-183.

¹⁸ Reed, Love in Action: The Story of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

¹⁹ The Duke Endowment Eleventh Annual Report of the Orphan Section, 1936.

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The Heyday of the Kennedy Memorial Home: 1940s to 1960

During the orphanage's final era of historic significance, from the 1940s to about 1959, the number of children at the Kennedy Memorial Home peaked at approximately 160 during the late 1940s and 1950s, and then declined slightly to 135 children by 1965. The two-story group homes remained in use until the end of this era, supplemented along the main avenue by long Ranch-style houses that were more efficient to supervise and operate and created a closer relationship between the house mothers and the children. In 1943 W. C. Reed succeeded Joseph Hough as superintendent. Later superintendents included W. A. Smith and Roger E. Williams Jr.

One of the first modern cottages, Columbus-Cannon Cottage (No. 4), is a sprawling one-story brick building built in 1950. A documentary photograph of a typical bedroom shows a row of four beds taking up nearly the entire room, with an opposite wall of built-in drawers and closets taking up the remaining space. ²¹ Typical of a later modern cottage is Ferebee Cottage (1959) (No. 9), a wide one-story brick building with the appearance of a large Ranch house and a capacity of twenty-four children. Its front porch leads into a center hall, flanked by large parlors. A cross-hall leads to a common kitchen, pantry, and dining room on the right, and staff and children's bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, on the left, extending in a rear ell. At the end of the center hall is a large study. As with the earlier cottages, each of the six children's bedrooms in the modern cottages housed three or four children.

During this era the old church and swimming pool were replaced with a new church (1956) (No. 2) and the Jones Swimming Pool (1957) (No. 14). The children enjoyed the swimming pool more than any other recreational facility on campus. Other buildings and structures on the main campus constructed during the orphanage's mid-twentieth century era of growth are the pastor's home (1956) (No. 3); Bunker cottage (1957) (No. 5), Staff House No. 2344 (1940s) (No. 36); Laundry/Sewing Room (1940s) (No. 39); Brogden Food Locker (early 1950s) (No. 43), and the Workman House (1958) (No. 46). Farm operation buildings of this era are the milking barn (1940s) (No. 22); granary/garage (1950s) (No. 23); water tower (1949) (No. 24); equipment shed (1950s) (No. 26); dairy barn (1940s) (No. 28); pole barn (1950s) (No. 51); and the pig parlor (1950s) (No. 54).

Throughout this period the home's agricultural operations remained both the means of feeding the children and of making money to maintain the home's operation. In the 1943 annual report, Superintendent W. C. Reed praised the livestock herds--the Poland China hogs, the Hereford beef cattle, the Holstein dairy cows, and the flocks of chickens. In addition to meat from the livestock, the farm produced wheat, rye, oats, straw, hay, silage, soy beans, corn, lespedeza seed, eggs, and milk. Almost as important to the home's success as the superintendents were the farm managers. C. B. Johnson managed the farm from 1943-1962. His wife, Ruth Jones Johnson, supervised the sewing room throughout this time. Pearl Howell served as head carpenter from

²⁰ Annual Report of Baptist Orphanage of North Carolina, 1943-1949; 1953, 1963-1965.

²¹ A Pictorial History of Kennedy Memorial Home, 89.

²² Annual Report of Baptist Orphanage of North Carolina, 1943, page 39; Annual Report, 1946, page 16.

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1937-1949, and as superintendent of buildings and grounds from 1949-1967. W. E. Walker was supervisor of food from 1949 to 1987. He managed the cold storage plant, supervised the slaughter of swine and cattle from the farm at a meat packing plant in Kinston, then processed the meat and stored it in the various cold storage vaults. Vegetables and fruits were also stored here. ²³ The Kennedy Memorial Home children worked daily on the farm, with the boys in the pastures and barns with the cows, the girls in the canning department. ²⁴ The orphanage sold the dairy herd in 1954, then started a new herd in the 1960s and built a dairy barn adjacent to White Lace Creek in the pasture section of the farm. That barn has since been demolished.

Life at the Kennedy Memorial Home was not all school and work. In the 1940s the Skeeter Hut, a camping lodge was built beside Lake Emily (No. 60), a pond ringed by cypress trees located near the Neuse River. Although the lodge was struck by lightning and burned, it was rebuilt in the 1970s and is still in use for camping trips (Nos. 52 and 53). The home's swimming pool, tennis courts, picnic shelter, and gymnasium were the sources of enjoyment. The children typically spent Christmas holidays and a portion of the summers with relatives or families. When they grew up, Kennedy Home children recalled appreciatively their time at the orphanage, and turned out in force every July 4 for the alumni homecoming. It was said of the children that "The average kid reared at Kennedy Home was better than the average kid not reared at Kennedy Home." 25

By the 1960s the Kennedy Memorial Home, like other orphanages in North Carolina, was losing its role as a full-time home for orphans for several reasons. Smaller families and other options for orphans lessened the number of orphans who needed institutional care. By the late 1950s more and more children at the orphanage came from broken homes where divorce rendered their lives unstable. But the mission to care for children has continued to the present. From 1962, when 150 children lived at the Kennedy Home, the population has fallen to the current number of thirty-eight, which fluctuates constantly due to the goal of reuniting children with their families as soon as feasible. All but one of the older, obsolete two-story cottages was demolished from the late 1960s to the late 1990s. The Perry Morgan Office, a 1930s one and one-half-story brick Colonial Revival-style building used as a library and staff apartment building, was demolished in the 1980s. Other historic buildings demolished or destroyed by fire are the dairyman's house and Dr. Spilman's House, several frame bungalows; the Moore Building (a two-story brick Colonial Revival-style cottage and infirmary) funded by Mrs. Jacob Parrott; a two-story weatherboarded frame gymnasium, and the original sewing room/laundry. In spite of these demolitions the campus retains an adequate array of historic resources to convey its operation during the period of significance.

Operation of the farm for diversified crop and livestock production, and stewardship of the forest through selective timbering and replanting, continued from the 1960s to 1993. Thirteen farm hands cultivated 750 acres of fields and pastures, milked 100 registered Holstein cows, raised beef cattle, and cultivated a twenty-five-acre

²³ Reed, Love in Action: The Story of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina.

²⁴ Interview with Richard Poteat, director of support services, Kennedy Memorial Home, August 29, 2008.

²⁵ "Kennedy Home to celebrate 75th anniversary," *Kinston Free Press*, June 25, 1989.

²⁶ Annual Report of Baptist Orphanage of North Carolina, 1963, page 5.

²⁷ Typescript history of Kennedy family, ca. 1971, in Cedar Dell file, N. C. Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

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garden as well as crops to support the livestock. By the early 1990s the high costs of supplies and labor meant that local farms had to either expand or cease farming. In 1993 the orphanage ceased its agricultural activities and leased the approximately 400 acres of fields to a local farmer, Jimmie D. Herring. The remaining 350 acres that had been cleared in the 1960s were replanted in loblolly and longleaf pine. ²⁸

In 1980 C. Earl Haynes became resident director of Kennedy Home. Because the orphanage was transitioning away from full-time care of children, the Kinston Area Family Services Center was formed to assist in family social work in the region. In the early 1980s Kennedy Home remained licensed to serve approximately 100 children in family-style living. The children attended public school and were involved with vegetable gardening, grain and livestock production, recreation, intramural sports, music, arts and crafts, and religious activities. By 1989 the home served sixty children, predominantly children who had been abused or had behavioral problems. The average stay was twelve to fourteen months before returning to their families. 30

In the 1960s White Lace Creek had been channelized as part of a government drainage program that operated throughout eastern North Carolina. In 2005 the Army Corps of Engineers cleaned out the creek, which had silted up, and restored the bed to its natural meandering route in order to slow down the drainage into the Neuse River. This returned the creek to its pre-1960 state. The Corps placed an easement on a land buffer along the creek in order to protect the waterway from pollution. The easement boundaries are reflected on the aerial tax map by a white line. Today, flocks of wild turkeys and crows, water fowl, deer and other wildlife populate the fields and woodland, which are restricted from all hunting activities.³¹

The decorative cast-iron entrance gate of 1956 that arches across the entrance to Cedar Dell Lane still welcomes new children and alumni of the Kennedy Memorial Home to this special refuge for disadvantaged children in Lenoir County.

Social History Context: Early Orphanages in North Carolina

Prior to the Civil War, North Carolina law dealt with destitute orphans who were not taken in by relatives or charitable individuals or organizations by placing them in the county poorhouse or allowing them to be indentured as apprentices to artisans to learn a trade. A few orphan asylum societies were established in North Carolina in the early 1800s, such as the Female Orphan Asylum of Fayetteville, incorporated 1813, but these were of short duration. Following the war, the toll in lives, property, and turbulence of the Reconstruction Era left many children orphaned and destitute. Although the apprenticeship system continued to operate until the early twentieth century, the 1868 Constitution of North Carolina provided for the establishment of orphan houses to

²⁸ Interview with Richard Poteat, director of support services, Kennedy Memorial Home, Aug. 29, 2008.

²⁹ The Heritage of Lenoir County, 130-131.

³⁰ Rogers, "75-year-old Kinston home still shelters children with love," *The News & Observer*, June 20, 2008.

³¹ Interview with Richard Poteat, director of support services, Kennedy Memorial Home, Aug. 29, 2008. The Army Corps of Engineers' easement around White Lace Creek is delineated by a white boundary line on the tax map and designated as tax parcels 36661 and 36662, although within the boundaries of the overall Kennedy Memorial Home property.

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care for, educate, and teach a business or trade to destitute orphans.³²

The need for orphanages in North Carolina was answered by fraternal organizations and religious denominations rather than by state government during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth. The first permanent orphanage in North Carolina, the Oxford Masonic Orphanage in Oxford, was established in 1873 by John Haymes Mills, a Virginia-raised educator who devoted his life to work with orphans. The institution occupied the abandoned buildings of St. John's College, a Masonic school, and served as the sole orphanage in North Carolina until the mid-1880s. Mills resigned as superintendent of the Masonic Orphanage and was drafted as superintendent for the first Baptist orphanage in the state, established in 1885 on an eighty-acre parcel (later expanded to 100 acres) near Thomasville in Davidson County. This was later named the Mills Home. By 1912 this institution served over four hundred orphans.³³ The third orphanage, the Colored Oxford Orphan Asylum in Oxford Asylum (now Central Children's Home of North Carolina), opened in 1883.

By 1899 ten fraternal, denominational, and county-maintained orphanages operated in the state; by 1929 thirty were in operation.³⁴ Among the largest in 1929 were the Children's Home of Winston-Salem, founded in 1909 on the 212-acre site of the Davis military academy, the Catholic Orphanage of North Carolina (Nazareth House), established on a farm near Raleigh in 1902; Elon Home for Children, Elon, established in 1909 on 111 acres; Falcon Children's Home, Falcon, established in 1909; Junior Order of the United American Mechanics (UAM) Orphan's Home, Lexington, established in 1924; Methodist Home for Children, Raleigh, established in 1900 on forty-five acres; and the Thompson Children's Home, Charlotte, established in 1886.³⁵ While referrals to the church-related orphanages often came through their own churches, children in need were accepted with no restrictions.³⁶

North Carolina's orphanages shared the same general organization and approach. Orphanage staffs were led by a superintendent, generally a minister for religious institutions. His wife often served as the chief matron. Most of the staff lived on campus--the houseparents in the cottages with the children and the superintendent in his own house. Houseparents ate with the students either in the cottages or in a central dining room. By the 1920s the early restrictions that children be full orphans who had lost both parents gave way to increasing acceptance of half orphans or children from broken homes. By 1950 the Mills Home in Thomasville and the Kennedy Home, Kinston cared for 522 children, only 84 of whom were full orphans. By the 1930s the admission of babies came under criticism because of the damage caused by a child's early separation from the mother. Children of less than school age were generally not admitted after this time.³⁷

³² Fink, "Changing Philosophies and Practices in North Carolina Orphanages," *North Carolina Historical Review*, October 1971, 333-336; Keith-Lucas, *A Hundred Years of Caring 1885-1985*, 1.

³³ Keith-Lucas, A Hundred Years of Caring 1885-1985, 1-3; 26.

³⁴ Fink, "Changing Philosophies and Practices in North Carolina Orphanages," 337.

³⁵ List, 1972, of North Carolina Children's Homes, Vertical File, N.C. State Library, Raleigh.

³⁶ Interview with Richard Poteat, director of support services, Kennedy Memorial Home, Aug. 29, 2008.

³⁷ Fink, "Changing Philosophies and Practices in North Carolina Orphanages," 343-358.

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Orphanages in North Carolina generally housed children in cottages with no more than twenty-four students in each one, while some orphanages in other states placed them in large dormitories. By the mid-1900s cottages housed no more than ten or twelve children. Children generally remained until high school graduation or until they were prepared to take care of themselves. Until the 1920s the children were educated by teachers at the orphanages, generally attending school throughout the year except for a two-week or a month summer vacation. They usually attended school half a day, and worked at the orphanage the other half-day in various maintenance jobs such farming, food preparation, cleaning, sewing, and laundering. Children at the Mills Home operated a printing business. Each institution offered religious instruction and services.³⁸

By about 1950 the modern era in North Carolina orphanages began. These changes were characterized by service to children who are not technically orphans; admission at school age of around six years old; continuing services to families of the institutionalized children so that their stays are shorter; sustained relationships with the families encouraged by flexible visiting and vacation policies; care in small cottage units and group homes; and education in public schools rather than in the institution. The campus of the Kennedy Memorial Home, with its collection of one-story Ranch-style cottages constructed beginning in 1950, represents the "family cottage living" era of orphanage philosophy.

North Carolina's historic orphanages have changed greatly in recent decades; some have closed, others have removed to new locations. Nazareth Orphanage and the Methodist Home in Raleigh have closed and are largely razed. The Elon Home for Children has been absorbed into Elon University. The Kennedy Memorial Home, the Mills Home, Oxford Orphanage, the Central Children's Home of North Carolina in Oxford and the Junior Order UAM Home (now American Children's Home) remain open on their original campuses. The Thompson Children's Home in Charlotte moved to a rural campus. Options to institutional care, including foster homes and in-home aid to troubled families, have fundamentally altered the need for long-term care orphanages. The well-preserved Kennedy Memorial Home has local significance under social history for its service to orphaned children from 1914 to 1959.

Agriculture Context: Orphanage Farms in North Carolina

The Kennedy Home has local agricultural significance as a largely intact orphanage farmscape developed during the first half of the twentieth century. Like other institutions that housed large numbers of people, such as prisons and, in the earliest eras, schools and colleges, North Carolina orphanages generally possessed large tracts of farmland where food was produced to sustain their population. Because these institutions were generally self-sufficient, the children, managed by full-time farm managers, dairymen and hired hands, provided the operating labor. The largest early orphanage campuses were the Oxford Orphanage, 376 acres; the Children's Home, Winston-Salem, 212 acres; and the Kennedy Home, 1,240 acres. Other orphanages owned smaller parcels: the Mills Home in Thomasville originally had a campus of eighty acres, later enlarged to 100 acres; the Methodist Orphanage in Raleigh a ninety-six-acre campus; and the Raleigh Catholic Orphanage had a large campus, that

³⁸ Ibid., 340-357.

³⁹ Ibid., 357-358.

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included farms with herds of cows and pigs, produce gardens, and fields of wheat, corn, silage, and pasture land.

The orphanage farmscape of the Kennedy Memorial Home consists of 1,240 acres containing large agricultural fields, forest, and swampland little changed since the mid-twentieth century. Agricultural buildings and food storage buildings constructed during the period of significance consist of two 1920s brick buildings: the Jar Room (for canned vegetables and fruit) and the potato curing barn; and a group of late 1940s and 1950s concrete block, brick, metal and frame buildings and structures: the dairy barn, milking barn, granary/garage, water tower, pole barn, and the Brogden Food Locker (containing meat and canned goods storage, a kitchen, and a dining room). The agricultural buildings survive with little alteration and few of the buildings in existence during the period of significance have been demolished. Thus this orphanage agricultural complex illustrates in a very complete way the facilities and operations of a large institutional farm.

The orphanage with a farm that most closely resembles that of the Kennedy Home is the Oxford Orphanage, which in the mid-twentieth century sheltered some 300 children like the Kennedy Home. Although a quarter of the size of the Kennedy Home campus, the Oxford Orphanage utilized its farmland in almost exactly the same way and had a very similar complement of farm outbuildings and food processing and storage buildings. The Oxford Orphanage's 376-acre property consisted of a twenty-five-acre campus, a thirty-acre produce garden, 200 acres of corn, silage, and alfalfa hay, and over 100 acres of pasture for the dairy herd. The Oxford farm employed both a farm manager and a dairy manager. Beginning around age eleven, the boys worked with the dairy and beef cattle and the hogs. They brought in the cows from the pasture in the summer, stabled them in the big barn in the winter, and milked them every morning and afternoon. They fed them and collected their manure for fertilizer. Behind the residential campus buildings of the Oxford Orphanage were a long row of dairy barns that included the milking barn with its adjacent silos, the long barn where the herd of fifty cattle, mostly Holsteins, were sheltered during the winter, the calf barn where young cows were birthed and nurtured until weaning, the mule barn for the small herd of mules that pulled the milk wagon and performed other heavy lifting chores, the corn crib, and tool shed. At Oxford, the children even assisted in hog slaughtering and processing the meat. In 1951 the orphanage built a modern all-brick freezer locker building that allowed it to increase the size of the hog herd and slaughter throughout the year, rather than only in the coldest winter months, since the refrigerated lockers preserved the meat during the warm months. 40

While the agricultural operations of the Kennedy Home resembled the Oxford Orphanage, the Kennedy Home is the largest orphanage campus in North Carolina. Its size allowed the institution to produce meat and hay in excess of what was needed by the children and to sell it. The dense forest along the Neuse River provided extra income for the orphanage from the proceeds of periodic timbering, and the rustic camp building known as the Skeeter Hut built in the 1940s beside Lake Emily allowed rotating groups of children to learn wilderness skills and to enjoy canoing and other outdoor sports. The Kennedy Home's most recent biographer acknowledged the uniqueness of

⁴⁰ Provost, Reflections in an Orphan's Eye: A Decade at Oxford 1947-1957, 287-385.

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the institution among others in North Carolina by commenting that it "had always been a Home with a farm, 600 acres of it." Some of the other earliest and largest orphanages, such as the Oxford Orphanage and the Winston-Salem Children's Home, moved into existing school campuses while the Kennedy Home took over the Kennedy Farm in 1913 with no interruption in agricultural activity, gradually converting the cultivated fields from cash crops to food crops to feed their children.

⁴¹ Keith-Lucas, A Hundred Years of Caring 1885-1985, 29.

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Section 10: Geographical Data

UTMS continued:

5. 18 256480 3901140

6. 18 255440 3901240

7. 18 254570 3904440

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated acreage of the Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District is shown by a heavy black on the 2008 Lenoir County Tax Map at a scale of 1 inch = 1500 feet. It is also shown by a white line on the Historic District Map, the same tax map enlarged to a scale of 1 inch = 300 feet. The boundary consists of the current tax parcel that composes the property (Parcel No. 26079) *minus* Parcel No. 26119, a twenty-four acre parcel located at the northwest corner that connects the property to Highway 70, and a 120-acre strip of land along the west boundary of the property, extending from the south easement boundary of White Lace Creek on the north to the Neuse River on the south. The historic district western boundary follows the current tax parcel line from the campus area south to the north easement boundary of the White Lace Creek. From that point south the boundary runs in a continuous straight line south southeast to the Neuse River.

Boundary Justification: The boundary constitutes the acreage associated with the Kennedy Memorial Home during the period of significance from 1914 to 1959. The twenty-four acres that join the property to Highway 70 and the 120-acre addition located on the lower west side of the property were added to the property in the 1970s and do not have historical significance. These parcels are excluded from the boundary.

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Photographs:

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Kennedy Memorial Home Historic District Kinston vicinity, Lenoir County, North Carolina Photographer: M. Ruth Little

Date: September 2008

Location of Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

- 1. Cedar Dell Cemetery, view from southwest
- 2. View of Cedar Dell Lane looking west toward Entrance Gate
- 3. Columbus-Cannon Cottage (W. Roy Poole Administration Building), view from northwest
- 4. Bunker Cottage view from south
- 5. Ferebee Cottage view from south
- 6. Pollock Cottage view from north
- 7. Cedar Dell, view to east
- 8. View of Automotive Shop, Equipment Shed, Greenhouse, and Dairy Barn, view from northwest
- 9. View of water tower, granary/garage, and milking barn, view from southwest
- 10. Williams Cottage, view from northwest
- 11. View of Cedar Dell, kitchen, and office from northwest
- 12. Staff House #2344 and Laundry/Sewing Room in background, view from southeast
- 13. Brogden Food Locker (at left) and Jar Room/Shop, view from southeast
- 14. Brogden Food Locker from southeast
- 15. Jar Room/Shop view from south

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- 16. View of field west of Plantation Road with orphanage campus in background, looking north
- 17. View of farmscape from Plantation Road, looking south
- 18 View of swampland near Neuse River, looking southwest
- 19. View of Cedar Dell Lane looking east through entrance gate toward Cedar Dell
- 20. View of boat landing from north
- 21. Kennedy Memorial Home Baptist Church, view from north